

**FREDERICKSBURG  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of February 20, 2020**

The February meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.

Commissioners Present: Mr. DaCorey Carter, Mr. David Dorsey, Mr. Cameron John, Mr. Eric Keeler, Mr. Brandon McVade, Mrs. Sharon Null, Mrs. Sue Sargeant, Absent: Dr. Tim Duffy, Dr. John Russ Also in attendance: Mr. Doug Fawcett, Director Jane Shelhorse, Mrs. Janice Lasker

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – The October 17, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.
- II. **Opportunity for Public Comment** – none
- III. **Staff Introduction – Callie Morgan** – Callie, a Montross native, joined the Department as Outdoor Recreation Supervisor in January and has hit the ground running. She worked at Caledon State Park for two and a half years as a Park Interpreter and loves history, nature and educating outdoors. In addition to immediately getting to work on Earth Day, Callie has been planning for summer camps, sprucing up an existing building at Alum Spring Park to use for Nature Program storage, teaching homeschool programs, and adding her own ideas to our collection of programs. Along with a degree in History from UMW, she brings enthusiasm and some loyal followers to the Department.
- IV. **Presentation – Face the River** – Tom Smith, project co-chair with David Dorsey, of the Face the River design committee of Main Street, gave a detailed presentation of the goals of this group, what they have done to date, and what they propose in the long term for the area of the City along the river. Based on thirteen studies over several years, and most recently, the Street Sense study, Face the River has developed a set of long term suggestions that will improve the scenic quality of the river without any negative impact on the health and quality of the river.

Embracing the river has been a recurring theme in all of the studies, and this presentation provides action items that the Face the River committee has proposed to City Council.

**V. Communications from Director:**

- A. Financial Report** – Director Shelhorse shared the new format for the January 2020 financial reports. She noted that revenue is comparable to 2019. Maintenance costs have been higher for the pool and for Motts due to an increased need for replacing/repairing existing problems and to the year-round use of Motts with hiking and biking.
- B. Leisure Report** – The pool will be resurfaced before opening, and the Department is in the process of contracting for lifeguards. Our Father/Daughter dance was held at Lafayette Upper Elementary School this year and was a huge success. We added four Open Gym dates for toddlers and preschoolers to our programs, and all were well attended. Our camp brochure will be available next week and is an actual catalog this year as opposed to a flyer.
- C. Special Events** – Another fun snowball fight was held at Hurkamp Park in January with over 175 people in attendance. The Fredericksburg Fine Art Show is full with over 320 pieces of art.
- D. Sports and Parks** – Basketball is winding down next week. The Department's first inline hockey league is starting soon, and registration numbers are high, particularly with adults. Soccer and field hockey registration is underway. The ADA compliance work has been completed at Old Mill Park. In conjunction with the Sunshine Lady Foundation, new playground equipment has been installed at W. L. Harris Park. Since the Department did not receive the grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to install an ADA accessible ramp from the VCR trail to the restroom building at Alum Spring Park, we are working with the Virginia Tech Engineering School on developing plans for the project.

**VI. Old Business –**

- A. Riverfront Park** – Doug Fawcett updated the Commission on the status of the construction. Beginning Monday, the construction fence will be installed and the construction company will begin taking

down any trees that need to be removed. Although the contract states completion in 300 days, an intentionally vague sign stating “Summer 2021 Opening” will be installed. The pad for the stage is part of the approved plan, but the stage itself will be added later. The park will not be a mature park for about three years.

- B. Strategic Plan for Parks** – Staff is not happy with the original plan, so they have asked for another review with more details.
- C. City Branding Project** – moving very slowly
- D. Alum Spring Playground/Director’s Fund** – Approval from City Council to use the insurance money will go before Council next week. We are working with procurement to come up with a basic plan with add/alternates. The additions can then be offered to local groups to fund the different portions.
- E. Appreciation Social** – We received positive comments all around. The Department is considering holding it at the baseball stadium club house for next year.

## **VII. New Business:**


- A. Budget FY2020** – We were hoping to have our strategic plan to apply to the budget, but instead we budgeted for new vehicles and equipment, such as a new nature shed at Motts. We included funds for a part time sports person, and a water fountain on the canal path. In our Capital Budget, we would like to make improvements to several of our parks, add lighting at the hockey rink, purchase a mobile stage, and add a parking lot near Memorial Park.
- B. Room Rentals and Equipment Policy** – Our new policy is that when renting a room at the DHCC, the renter is responsible for setting up and breaking down the tables and chairs.
- C. Registration Software** – The Department got new software, Civic Rec, on January 6<sup>th</sup> and is still getting used to it. The new brochure came out the same day.

**Directors/Commission Concerns and Topics** – Commissioner Keeler asked about the relationship with the schools. Director Shelhorse responded that the schools have been receptive to the Department putting our brochures in the schools, and that LUES did allow us to hold the Father/Daughter dance there. There have been a few instances though, where we had basketball scheduled, and we were not

notified until the last minute that we would have to reschedule our program due to a conflict at the school.

Now that Stafford has closed Falmouth Beach, Commissioner Dorsey would like discuss charging for parking at Old Mill Park at our March meeting. He also noted that he recently discovered Cobblestone Park. It is grossly overgrown and seems to have been forgotten about, so he suggests we add it to our March agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

 7/16/20  
Jane C. Shelhorse Date  
Director

**Next Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Dorothy Hart Community Center**